

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER! You may know the dog days of summer begin in early July, when hot sultry weather typically graces the northern hemisphere. But did you know the phrase actually dates back to ancient Rome and the midsummer appearance of the Dog Star Sirius, which rises and falls in cadence with the sun in mid-summer?

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JULY 2014

EMERALD ASH WOES

Invasive bug killing mature trees throughout Highland and the region

The Redevelopment Commission and Public Works are in a race against a tiny, yet stealthy, invader that is making short work of the town's ash tree population.

Of the 432 ash trees located on public right-of-ways, Public Works Director John Bach said about 39 percent have sustained serious damage from the emerald ash borer, a metallic green insect that has decimated ash tree populations in 22 states and two Canadian provinces. Another 39 percent are listed in the "best" category and have sustained minimal damage.

First detected in Indiana in 2004, Bach said Munster began seeing large tracts of ash canopy destroyed by burgeoning populations of the marauding insect in established neighborhoods several years ago.


"We are seeing a wide swath of damage in White Oak Estates and along 45th Avenue," he said. "We are just beginning to see trees on the east side of town sustain damage by the insects."

The emerald ash borer kills ash trees by disrupting their conductive tissues, which means water

HIGHLAND ASH TREE SURVEY

Public Works evaluated the 432 Ash trees in the town's right-of-ways by size and degree of distress. Here's what they found:

RATING	# TREES	% POP.
1 (worst)	49	11%
2	34	8%
3	87	20%
4	94	22%
5 (best)	168	39%



and other nutrients can't reach the highest levels of the tree and it begins to die.

The Redevelopment Commission is taking action. Of the 46 trees identified in the commercial district, 34 are being treated with insecticides known to kill adult or larval populations.

"A canopy of trees adds value to our downtown," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "We are committed to treating these trees until the emerald ash borer dies off, moves on or the tree becomes too decimated to survive." 🌿

TOWN TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN

After a year of study, the Redevelopment Commission is ready to release its findings and help determine a future for the Town Theatre.

Council President Dan Vassar said he is looking to the community to help decide whether to invest in the rehabilitation of the vintage structure.

"There is no question the Town is going to require a significant outlay of cash to bring it in to compliance with today's regulations," Vassar said.

If a decision is made to rehab the theatre, the town will also need to determine who will be in charge

of the day-to-day operations and maintenance.

"I am hoping to see as many citizens as possible attend this very important study session, which will help us make a decision that is very near and dear to the hearts of many people in town," Vassar said. "We all love the theatre. We need to make a decision how much we are willing to spend to revive it and where we might tap funds to help." 🌿

IF YOU GO: The Town Council study session regarding the future of the Town Theatre will be held at 7 p.m. July 21 at Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road.

PUTTING PRIDE BACK IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Town Council is appealing to residents with a "Putting Pride Back in Our Town" initiative.

"We want residents to take pride in their properties," Councilman Dennis Adams said. "Sprucing up one residence can impact an entire neighborhood."

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan has offered up his investigators to detail properties that could use some spit-and-polish. "The investigators are trained to look for code violations and will make notes when they are in Highland on township business that they will send over to the Building Department," Adams said. "Another set of eyes can only help keep our town on track."

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

To make your environment safer, bring your batteries, household cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, pesticides, antifreeze, gasoline, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs to the town garage. Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, medical waste, explosives, radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **AUGUST 2**

WHERE: Highland Public Works

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

... TOWN TICKER ...

Welcome home Sgt. Matthew Dunlap, the son of Cindy and Bob Haskell, who returned from his third and final deployment to Afghanistan. Dunlap finished his Army career and now makes his home in Highland with his wife Amy and their two children, Dale and Rose. ... **A gentle leash law reminder:** Town laws require Fido and Fluffy to be on a leash if they are going to be enjoying the season in your neighborhood outside a fenced yard. ... Summer is the most difficult time for blood centers. Donate at **Highland's Heartland Blood Center** through July 31 and receive a \$5 Subway card.

UNSUNG HERO HONORED

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin is the recipient of the South Shore Leadership Center's first-ever Dunes Crest Award, the highest honor bestowed on an individual who has served as a leader of note within the SSLC and the region.

"Receiving this award fills my heart," Griffin said. "That I am the first recipient is humbling; that my peers have selected me is my honor."

Griffin is also the recipient of the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Indiana Leadership Association.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Guest Speaker Tom Branson, of the sheriff's department, will talk about recent gang initiatives at this month's neighborhood meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **JULY 9**

WHERE: Highland Library

INFO: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
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FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO THIS SUMMER'S 'WIZARD OF OZ'

"When the wind begins to switch and the house begins to pitch," all eyes will be glued on the Main Square Gazebo where a cast of 57 actors will give the performance of their lives.

This summer's theatre offering marks the first time in 17 years where the beloved Dorothy and her cohorts from Oz have graced Highland's outdoor stage.

Valerie Wotkun, who is co-directing Highland's second live performance of the classic "Wizard of Oz" with C. Dale Kelly, said for many of the actors, this performance is a family affair with two, three, even four siblings and a mom cast in roles from named characters to Munchkins to members of the chorus.

It's the same way Wotkun became involved in local theatre, helping out when her daughter and husband were performing.

For Wotkun, of Griffith, who made her directorial debut in the Hammond Community Theatre's performance of "The Mouse Trap," "Wizard of Oz" will mark her first experience with outdoor theatre.

ABOUT THE SHOW ...

Join us for the classic tale of the Wizard of Oz, presented by the HPRD Performing Arts Group. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray. Concession stand will be open and we will be selling programs for \$2. All proceeds help offset the cost of production.

DIRECTOR: C. Dale Kelly

CHOREOGRAPHER: Catherine Solina

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Jeff Otto

SOUND AND LIGHTS: JRT Events

SHOWTIMES: 8 p.m. **JULY 31** and **AUG. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9**

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

"Performing the "Wizard of Oz" is challenging. We have 28 cast members who are under the age of 12 and are getting more excited the closer we get to August," Wotkun said. "Our Munchkins are creating their own costumes and that is making things even more fun."

The cast will continue rehearsing four nights a week at Lincoln Center in preparation for performances in the park the first two weekends in August. 🐾

CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SEASON WITH OUR NEW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

Labor Day weekend will be awash in activities as a new, end-of-summer festival takes flight.

All of the activities you have come to expect from town festivals will be available at this Labor Day extravaganza, which will cap the outdoor carnival season.

Kelly Bridges, president of the Council of Community Events, said in addition to live entertainment, food booths, carnival rides and crafters, the festival will feature a bevy of home-based vendors.

Secretary Dawn Wolak, a long-time Council of Community Events member, said the group is planning other fall-themed activities during the four-day festival run.

"We were thinking about hosting events this fall when everything fell into place for an autumn festival and we decided to go for it," she

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL ...

Join the Highland Council of Community events for its first Labor Day Festival featuring arts & crafts, rides, food and live entertainment at this fall-themed extravaganza.

AUGUST 29: 5 p.m. to midnight

AUGUST 30: 1 p.m. to midnight

AUGUST 31: 1 p.m. to midnight

SEPTEMBER 1: 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call Kelly Bridges at (219) 670-0764 or Secretary Dawn Wolak at (219) 923-0514.

said. "When I was growing up in Highland, we always had a fall festival in mid-September. The more we thought about it, the more it seemed like a fun idea to revive the tradition."

Watch for more festival details along with the band line-up in the August issue of the Gazebo Express. 🐾



**2014
PARK & RECREATION
MONTH**

July is all about getting
OUTdoors and **IN** your
fantastic local parks!

July is National Parks and Recreation Month and this year Highland Parks & Recreation wants you to spend more time **OUT**doors and **IN** your parks.

Enjoy a picnic in the park, make a phone call to mom, hold a meeting or exercise class in the fresh air, step outside to brush your teeth or even sleep out in the open. Happy camping! Use your imagination — the possibilities are endless!

“July is a perfect time to get outside and experience the great outdoors and all that our parks have to offer,” Parks Superintendent Alex Brown said.

Residents are encouraged to join the national social media challenge on Twitter and Instagram by posting photos of themselves doing inside activities outside with the hashtag #JulyOUTisIN.

To learn more about getting **OUT**side and **IN**volved, visit www.highlandparks.org and www.nrpa.org/July.



GIVING BACK: Highland High Principal Patrick Weil, second from right, receives a \$1,500 check from the reunion committee members Mary Zuffa, Mark Mitcheltree and Carol Stanley. [PHOTO BY ELMO PARLOR]

ALL-CLASS REUNION

The Highland High School All-Class Reunion has grown to an annual bash that boasts 600 to 800 people. The event features at least two bands and is supported by dozens of local business owners, who donate food, cash and raffle items. Their generosity has helped organizers keep the ticket price at \$8 — and provide an ample surplus, which is donated each year to Highland High.

WHEN: 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. **AUGUST 2**

WHERE: American Legion Hall, located at Ridge Road and Second Street.

INFO: Email highlandalumni@yahoo.com or find us on Facebook!

OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Enjoy the warm summer weather at the annual outdoor market featuring fresh produce, cheeses, breads, teas, coffees, spices, tamales and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, **JUNE 7 - OCTOBER 18**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114.

ROTARY CORN ROAST

Join us for all the corn you care to eat. The roast includes piping hot, buttered cobs, two hot dogs or one sausage, chips, drink and dessert.

WHEN: 4 to 7:30 p.m. **AUGUST 2**

WHERE: Main Square Park

FEES: \$6 in advance at Cakes By Karen, Lincoln Center and the chamber office; \$8 after July 30. Kids under 6 eat free.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666.

TOWN COUNCIL AWARDS BIDS FOR NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Gough Inc. of Merrillville is the first contractor hired for site preparation for the new public safety facility at Cottage Grove Avenue and Ridge Road.

With a low bid of \$457,300, Gough was awarded a contract for work that includes demolition of a pair of homes on the site along with construction of a parking lot, detention pond and installation of an underground drainage system.

Councilman Dennis Adams, the town liaison on the project is eager to see the site work completed and an official ground-breaking scheduled.

“We’ve been thinking, talking and planning this project for a long time,” Adams said. “A state-of-the-art public safety building is desperately needed and getting our police into a new facility can’t happen soon enough.”

WHAT’S NEXT?

While demolition is ongoing, the town will assemble bid specifications for construction and schedule a ground-breaking in August.

INFO: Email Dennis Adams at dadams@highland.in.gov or call (219) 923-8475.

CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

Sign up to tee-off at the 2014 golf outing sponsored by the Highland and Griffith chambers of commerce.

WHEN: 11 a.m. registration and lunch, noon shotgun start, Friday **JULY 18**

WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course

FEE: \$100 per person includes lunch, golf, cart, drink tickets and golf balls.

RESERVATIONS: Call 219.923.3666 or download a form at www.highlandchamber.com.

KIWANIS CHICKEN DINNER

Join the Highland Kiwanis for a chicken dinner at Main Square Park. Eat at the park or take home. Tickets are \$9 and include half a roasted chicken, Nelson's tasty Pit-Tatoes and slaw.

WHEN: 5 to 6:30 p.m. **AUGUST 8**

WHERE: Main Square Park

TICKETS: Purchase tickets by **JULY 31** at First Midwest Bank, 2842 Highway Ave.; Edward Jones, 8415 Kennedy Ave; or Lincoln Center.

INFO: Call Jeannine at 219.923.2360.

KINDERMUSIK PLAY DATE

Designed to introduce children to music, Kindermusik provides a variety of activities that encourage creativity, exploration, language, movement and social development. Children can experience the magic of music without the pressure to perform. This one-time class is for newborns to age 6.

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. **JULY 23** or 10:30 a.m. **AUG. 20**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$8 residents, \$11 nonresidents. Includes a CD or 10 downloadable songs from Kindermusik.

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

KIDS FISHING CONTEST

Boys and girls - ages 6 to 13 - are invited to come out to Meadows Park Pond and enjoy a morning of fishing activities. Contestants will participate in a catch-and-release fishing tournament. Bring your own pole, hooks, lures and bobbers. Bait will be provided.

WHEN: 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, **AUGUST 9**

WHERE: Meadows Park Pond

FEE: \$7 residents, \$10 nonresidents.

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **AUGUST 4**.

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

CHICAGO BULLS SUMMER CAMP

Let the Chicago Bulls teach you how to play like a champion! Improve every aspect of your basketball game including ball handling, shooting, passing, rebounding, footwork, individual moves and team concepts.

WHEN: **JULY 28** to **AUGUST 1**

ROOKIES AGES 6-8: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

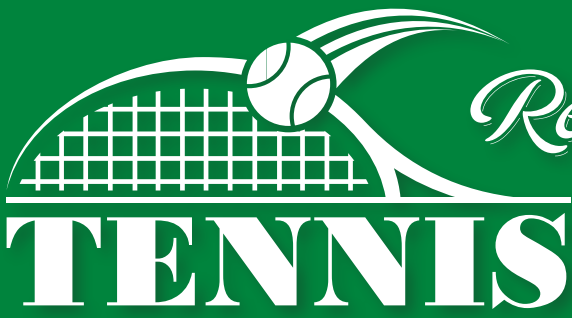
VETERANS AGES 9-12: 1 to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse

FEE: \$209 per player

REGISTER: Register at Lincoln Community Center or online at www.bullssoxacademy.com.

INFO: Call 630.PLAYBAL.



Red Hot TENNIS

Learn proper tennis techniques from instructors Steve and Ofelia. Steve is a longtime USPTR tennis pro at Match Point and head coach at Calumet College. Ofelia is a USPTR tennis pro at Match Point, assistant girls tennis coach at Highland High School and assistant coach at Calumet College.

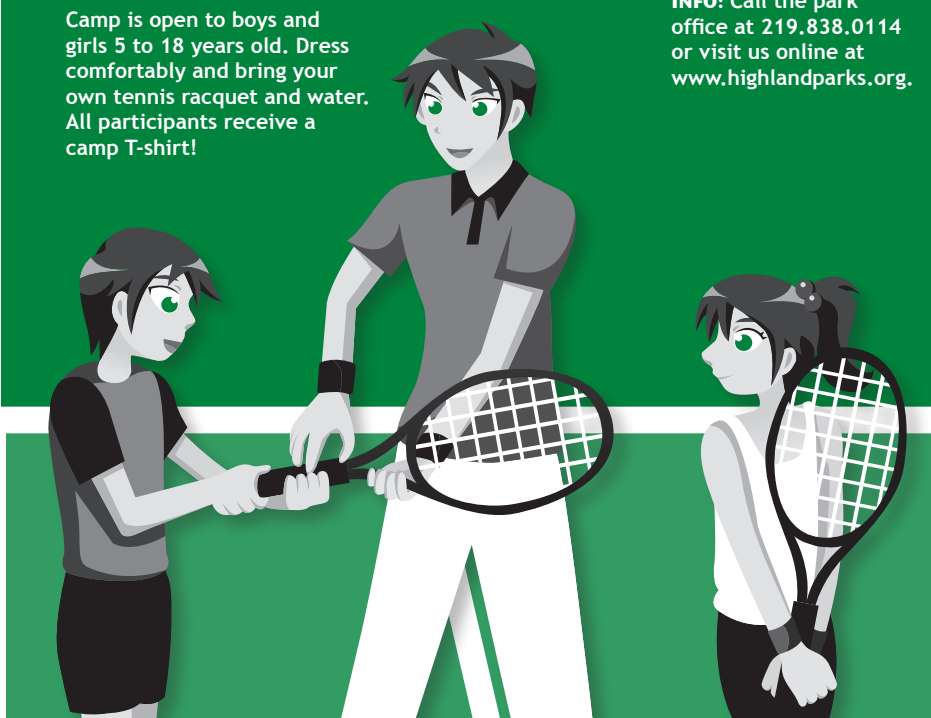
Camp is open to boys and girls 5 to 18 years old. Dress comfortably and bring your own tennis racquet and water. All participants receive a camp T-shirt!

WHEN: 8 to 9:30 a.m. or 9:30 to 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday, **JULY 7 - 24**

WHERE: Highland High School tennis courts

FEE: \$125/\$135 per 3 week session; \$85/\$95 per 2 week session; \$45/\$50 for 1 week.

INFO: Call the park office at 219.838.0114 or visit us online at www.highlandparks.org.



NEW BASKETBALL TOURNEY

Sign up for Hoosier Hysteria summer-style during this first 3v3 outdoor basketball classic. Men play men. Women play women. Any team may roster up to five players and every squad is guaranteed at least three games. Pool play will be followed by a single elimination tourney for top teams. All team members must sport identical shirts that have identifying numbers on the back. Sign up early to guarantee your choice of jersey colors. Championship shirts will be awarded to the top teams.

WHEN: **JULY 19**

WHERE: Sheppard Park

FEE: \$60 per team. Max 8 teams per division.

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **JULY 13**

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Sultry skies and oh-so-warm evening temperatures lend themselves to spending time outdoors. Grab a comfy lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and head to Main Square for Highland Park's summer concert series.

JULY 10: Dan Mateja & the Downtown Sound
Legendary polka music

JULY 17: Piano Man Mike Sigman
Billy Joel & Elton John tribute

WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse. Please bring your own chair.

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.